

### **Section I (Amendments to the Claims)**

Please cancel claims 6-7, and 9-13, and amend claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 14, 15 and 16, and add new claims 17-18, as set out in the following listing of claims 1-18:

1. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of obtaining the liver tissue sample from said subject.
2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16, in which said subject is a human being.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, in which the detection and quantification of said ~~protein selected from~~ proteins comprising APA1, ATPB, LKHA, K1CR, GAMT, SODC, ALBU, AOP2 (isoform 1), AOP2 (isoform 2), PHB1, MAT, ACDL ~~and/or~~ and SBP is performed by means of the use of specific antibodies against said proteins.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, in which said antibodies comprise antibodies selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, recombinant fragments of antibodies, combibodies and fragments of Fab or scFv of specific antibodies against said proteins.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, in which the detection and quantification of said ~~protein selected from~~ proteins comprising APA1, ATPB, LKHA, K1CR, GAMT, SODC, ALBU, AOP2 (isoform 1), AOP2 (isoform 2), PHB1, MAT, ACDL ~~and/or~~ and SBP is performed by ELISA or Western blotting techniques, or by the use of devices ~~of the kind of comprising~~ comprising biochips or protein microarrays ~~which that~~ include specific antibodies against the proteins to be detected.
- 6.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, in which when the comparison of the results obtained in step a) b) with normal values, of reference, indicates that:

(i) the concentration of ~~at least one of~~ the proteins APA1, ATPB, LKHA, K1CR, GAMT, SODC, ALBU ~~or~~ and AOP2 (isoform 1), is higher than ~~the highest limit of~~ the normal reference values for said proteins in liver tissue; and/or

(ii) the concentration of ~~at least one of~~ the proteins PHB1, AOP2 (isoform 2), MAT, ACDL ~~or~~ and SBP is lower than ~~the lowest limit of~~ the normal values of reference for said proteins in liver tissue,

then, said results are indicative of the existence of NASH in the subject whose liver tissue sample has been assayed or of the existence of a susceptibility of said subject to develop NASH in the future.

9.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a protein selected from~~ A method of assessing a subject to identify presence of or susceptibility to NASH in said subject, said method comprising: detecting and quantifying levels of each of a combination of proteins in liver tissue of said subject, said combination including the following proteins: apolipoprotein A1 (APA1), mitochondrial ATPase  $\beta$  subunit (ATPB), leukotriene A<sub>4</sub> hydrolase (LKHA), keratin 18 (K1CR), guanidinoacetate N-methyltransferase (GAMT), superoxide dismutase (SODC), antioxidant protein 2 (AOP2) (isoforms 1 and 2), prohibitin 1 (PHB1), methionine adenosyl transferase (MAT), long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (ACDL), and selenium binding protein (SBP), ~~and their combinations, in the method of claim 16; comparing levels of each of said combination of proteins to reference values that permit existence or susceptibility of NASH in said subject to be assessed; and identifying from said comparing, the presence of NASH in said subject or the susceptibility of said subject to NASH.~~

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a protein~~ method according to claim 14, wherein said comparing is conducted to determine presence of NASH in said subject.

16. (Currently Amended) An in vitro method for assessment of a liver tissue sample from a subject, to determine presence of or susceptibility to NASH in said subject, said method comprising:

a) detecting and quantifying in said liver tissue sample the level of ~~a protein selected from the following proteins:~~ apolipoprotein A1 (APA1), mitochondrial ATPase  $\beta$  subunit (ATPB), leukotriene A4 hydrolase (LKHA), keratin 18 (K1CR), guanidinoacetate N-methyltransferase (GAMT), superoxide dismutase (SODC), albumin (ALBU), antioxidant protein 2 (AOP2) (isoforms 1 and 2), prohibitin 1 (PHB1), methionine adenosyl transferase (MAT), long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (ACDL), and selenium binding protein (SBP), ~~and their combinations;~~  
and

b) comparing the results obtained in step a) with normal reference values for said proteins in liver tissue; and

c) based on said comparing, determining the presence of or susceptibility to NASH in said subject.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said method is conducted for determining presence of NASH in said subject.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said method is conducted for determining susceptibility to NASH in said subject.